

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1           1.     An appliance configured for connection to a network and  
2     communication with a device connected to the network, the appliance comprising:  
3           a processing device configured to control operation of the appliance;  
4           memory including logic configured to receive software that facilitates  
5     communication between the appliance and the device from a software source; and  
6           a network interface device with which the appliance communicates with the  
7     software source.

1           2.     The appliance of claim 1, wherein the logic configured to receive  
2     software is adapted to transmit approval to the software source in response to a  
3     notification from the software source of the availability of the software.

1           3.     The appliance of claim 1, wherein the logic configured to receive  
2     software is adapted to transmit approval only upon authorization received by a user of  
3     the appliance.

1           4.     The appliance of claim 1, further comprising logic configured to  
2     actively retrieve software from the software source.

1           5.     The appliance of claim 4, wherein the logic configured to actively  
2 retrieve software is adapted to periodically search for software for the appliance.

1           6.     The appliance of claim 4, wherein the logic configured to actively  
2 retrieve software is adapted to search for software for the appliance in response to a  
3 communication from the software source.

1           7.     The appliance of claim 1, wherein the logic configured to receive  
2 software is adapted to receive executables and data structures for accessing the device.

1           8.     The appliance of claim 1, wherein the appliance is an image capture  
2 appliance.

1           9.     An appliance configured for direct connection to a network and  
2 communication with a device connected to the network, the appliance comprising:  
3           a processing device configured to control operation of the appliance;  
4           an acquisition module adopted to receive software that facilitates  
5 communication between the appliance and the device from a software source; and  
6           network interface devices with which the appliance communicates with the  
7 software source.

1           10.    The appliance of claim 9, wherein the means for receiving software are  
2    adapted to transmit approval to the software source in response to a notification from  
3    the software source of the availability of the software.

1           11.    The appliance of claim 9, further comprising means for actively  
2    retrieving software from the software source.

1           12.    The appliance of claim 11, wherein the means for actively retrieving  
2    software are adapted to periodically search for software for the appliance.

1           13.    The appliance of claim 11, wherein the means for actively retrieving  
2    software are adapted to search for software for the appliance in response to a  
3    communication from the software source.

1           14.    The appliance of claim 1, wherein the appliance is an image capture  
2    appliance.

1           15.     A network storage device, comprising:  
2           a processing device configured to control operation of the device;  
3           memory including logic configured to receive software that facilitates  
4           communication between a network appliance and a separate network device, and  
5           including logic configured to transmit software to the network appliance; and  
6           a network interface device with which the network storage device  
7           communicates with the network appliance.

1           16.     A method for enabling communications between an appliance and a  
2           separate device, comprising the steps of:  
3           automatically receiving software with the appliance that facilitates  
4           communication between the appliance and the separate device; and  
5           storing the software in memory of the appliance such that the appliance is  
6           adapted to communicate with the separate device.

1           17.     The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of receiving a  
2           notification from a source of software with the appliance regarding the availability of  
3           the software prior to receiving the software.

1           18.     The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of automatically  
2           searching for software over a network to which the appliance is connected.

1            19.     The method of claim 18, wherein the step of automatically searching is  
2     conducted on a periodic basis.

1           20.     The method of claim 18, wherein the step of automatically searching is  
2     conducted in response to a communication from the separate device.

[illegible]